

I support media diversity

I am writing to comment on Docket No. 02-277.

As a newspaper reporter beginning in the 1970's, I have seen how concentrating media ownership, whether print or broadcast, has taken away important local coverage.

The first thing the new corporation does is get rid of most of the hometown staff on the theory that a centralized news desk with a few token local stories is good enough.

Well, it is not, and you are all sharp enough to notice that.

These are our community airwaves. These are our hometown newspapers. Anyone who's ever worked for a town newspaper knows that folks really act like they too own the newspaper. That's because there is stimulating local content that engages and challenges people, not just numbing entertainment or one-sided commentary.

And what about the role of the publisher as a leading citizen of the town? It's gone when the ownership is based in a far-off boardroom. Who cares what's best for the town? Only what's best for the bottom line!

I wonder how many of you can even identify with what I'm saying? If you can't, why are you on the FCC?

Sincerely,  
Patricia McKay